



The Story of Jonah

THE FIRST JAWS

J.T.C.

It is said that in the early 1900's, a British sailor, trying to harpoon a gigantic shark, slipped and fell overboard.*



48 hours later the shark was caught and cut open.



**Jonah and Micah* (Through the Bible, Vol. 29) by J. Vernon McGee (1978), p. 41.



This true story is found in the book of Jonah. About 750 B.C. the Assyrians ruled over the Middle East.



Their army was one of the cruelest in history.

Israel had been warned that if they sinned, they would suffer.



And this was such a time. Israel's king, Jeroboam II, did "evil in the sight of the Lord." (II Kings 14:24)

Jonah, a prophet of God, stood before King Jeroboam.



Jonah also hated the brutal Assyrians.

The Assyrian capital, Nineveh, was called "The Robber City."

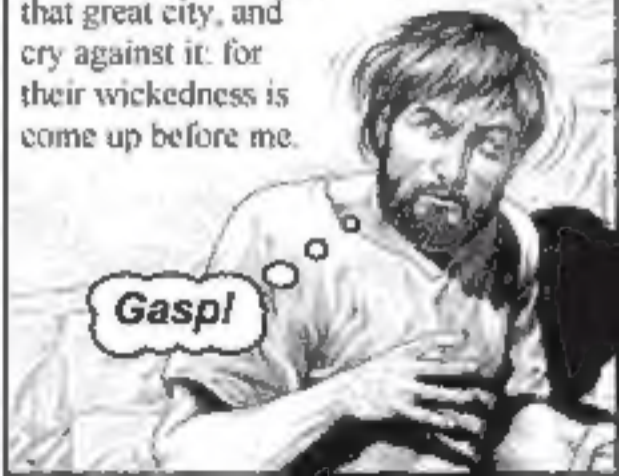
It was built like a huge fortress.



Because of its wickedness, God marked it for judgment and destruction.

Jonah heard a command from God that made his blood turn cold.

Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it: for their wickedness is come up before me.



Jonah wasn't about to warn the Ninevites. *He wanted them dead!*



He knew if they repented, God would forgive them. He decided to run from God.

Instead of going east to Nineveh like God said, Jonah went west.



He caught a ship headed for Tarshish in southern Spain.

Once on board, Jonah thought he had it made. He was sure the Ninevites would be destroyed.



"But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea... so that the ship was like to be broken."

The terrified sailors cried to their gods, and threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.



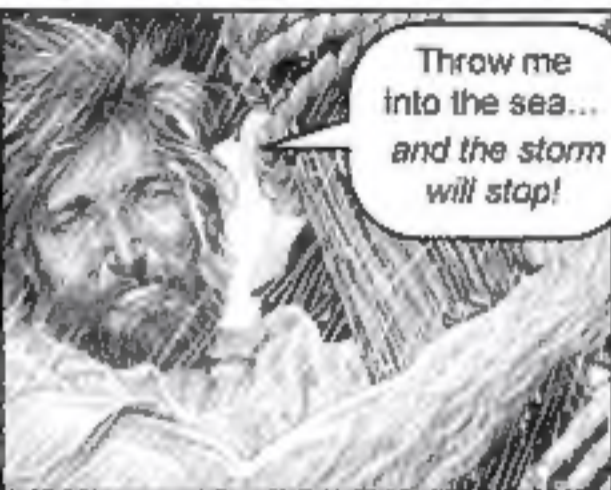
But Jonah was asleep below deck.

Why didn't he call on his God?
They asked him who he was.



Jonah explained he was running from God.

They asked Jonah what they should do.



Throw me
into the sea...
*and the storm
will stop!*

The harder they rowed, the more
the storm increased. It was useless.

They begged God to forgive them
for what they were going to do.



"So they took up Jonah, and cast him
forth into the sea: and the sea ceased
from her raging." (Jonah 1:15)

"Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows."¹⁶



*Jonah 1:16



Jonah was rebellious... and God didn't let him get away with it.



Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah.

And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (Jonah 1:17)



In terror, Jonah prayed.

Jonah was being taken back towards Nineveh. *the hard way!*



In faith, Jonah believed that God would get him out of this and that he would again see God's temple

Jonah was in a mess. Seaweed was wrapped around his head. He was in a type of hell.



As they approached dry land, the fish prepared to get rid of Jonah.

Look at the size of that fish

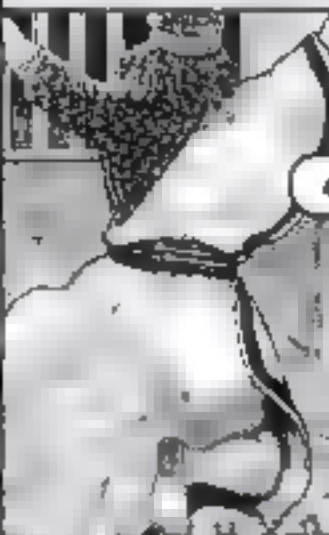
GASP!

The Lord spoke unto the fish



and it vomited out Jonah upon
the dry land (Jonah 2:11)

You can imagine how fast the news traveled



There's a god from the sea...

coming this way!

He came out of a fish?

Jonah looked terrible, but he obeyed God even though he still hated the Ninevites



Jonah was the only evangelist who prayed that he'd get no converts

Jonah warned the people.

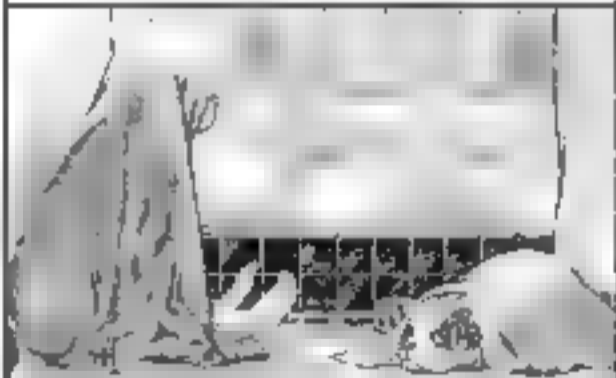


Yet forty days

and Nineveh
shall be
overthrown!

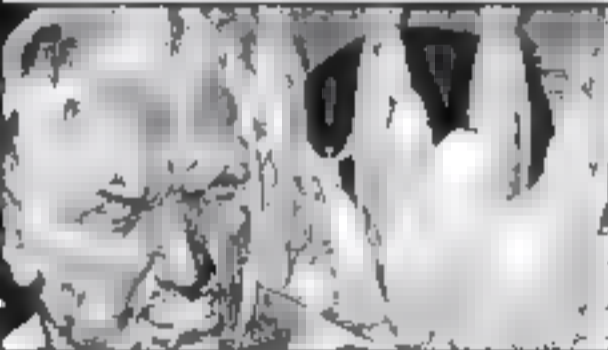
The unthinkable happened!
The most wicked people on earth
repented and believed God
It was the greatest revival in history

Man and beast were covered
in sackcloth before God in true
repentance.



The **ENTIRE CITY**
turned from their wicked ways!

God spared Ninevah because they turned to Him



Jonah was furious!

He wanted the Ninevites **DEAD!**

Outside the city, Jonah built a booth to watch if God would burn down the city



He was glad when God allowed a gourd to grow up and shade him from the heat.

Jonah was outraged over
the worm killing the gourd.
So God sent wind and heat
that made Jonah faint



"It is better
for me to die
than to live"

God used this
incident to teach
Jonah a great lesson.

*Jonah 4:3

Jonah had pity on the gourd
but no mercy for people!



But God showed Jonah that the
120 000 little children and the
cattle of Ninevah were far more
important than a gourd

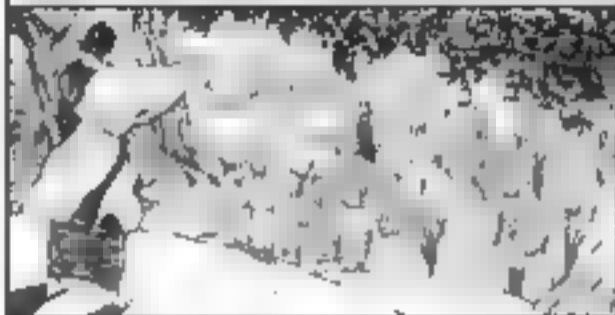
The One who created Jonah and the great fish was born in a manger about 700 years later. His name was Jesus.

The Bible says...



"He came into the world, the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. (John 1:9)

As Jonah warned Nineveh, Jesus warned US of coming judgment.



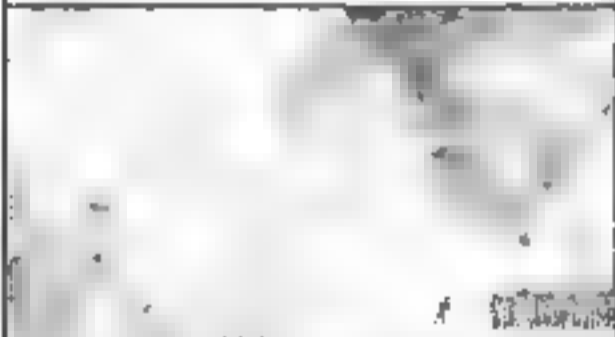
When the Lord Jesus Christ began his ministry, his first word was **Repent!**

Jesus spoke more about hell than anyone else in the Bible



Out of love He warned us that hell is real and gave us a way of escape.

As "God the Son." He will send all who die in their sins to that horrible place



For the Father judge no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son (Jesus) ~ (John 5:22)

Jesus said:

"For as (Jonah) was three days and three nights in the whale's belly;

so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

(Mat. 12:40)



It was an act of love when God sent Jonah to warn Nineveh...

But the greatest act of love the world had ever seen was yet to come.

Jesus Christ was the perfect and final sacrifice.

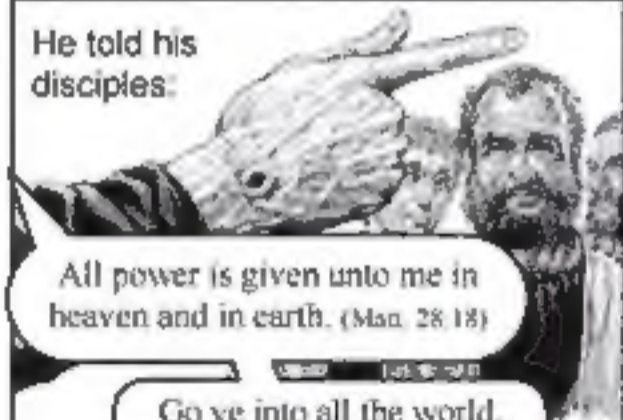


See
John 3:16

He shed his precious blood to wash away our sins, the God of heaven dying for sinful man.

Three days later, He rose from the grave, victorious over death.

He told his disciples:



All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Mat. 28:18)

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

The people of Nineveh were spared God's judgment...

because they REPENTED.

"...except ye repent, ye shall **ALL** likewise perish (in hell)." (Luke 13:3)

The Bible says YOU can also escape God's judgment:

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved (from hell), and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

Make sure you don't hear these horrible words when you die:

"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."^{*}



"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."^{*}
(Matt. 25:46)

^{*}Matt. 25:41

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read *The Next Step*, available at www.chick.com.

